Fairfax, Montgomery List Aid Received from CIA

1-14-76

By Athelia Knight
and Alice Bonner
Washington Post Staff Writers

Both the Fairfax and Montgomery county police departments confirmed yesterday they had received equipment from the CIA in recent years, but Fairfax said the metal detector it got did not work and was discarded.

In addition, Montgomery Police Supt. Kenneth W. Watkins disclosed that "three or four" county police officers received CIA training in general and photography surveillance between 1968 and the early 1970s.

Watkins said the CIA lent his department electronic instruments for use by county undercover narcotics agents as a safety precaution in purchasing illegal drugs.

Watkins said the equipment included a tunable frequency monitor for a wireless microphone, a signal monitor, a wireless microphone, a receiver, a miniature headset and a tape recorder.

The Montgomery police officers were trained in surveillance techniques that were devised by the agency overseas and were unavailable to county police at the time, Watkins said.

Fairfax police spokesman Bill Ellingsworth said county police requested use of the metal detector when they determined that bullets used in the 1970 "gangland style" killing of two members of the Saints motorcycle gang were possibly in the ground where the bodies were found near Tysons Corner.

"There is absolutely nothing sinister about it," he said.

According to documents released in recent days by the CIA under Freedom of Information Act requests, Washington-area police departments got training in the late 1960s and early 1970s in surveillance techniques, surreptitious entry, lock-picking and use of explosives. They also were lent various types of equipment by the CIA.

Ellingsworth said that when police tried to use the CIA metal detector they found it would not work. A county employee who is a Civil War buff then lent the county his metal detector and police found several bullets at the murder site, he said.

Ellingsworth said after the CIA lent the county the equipment, the agency later declared the faulty metal detector "a surplus item and donated it to Fairfax County."

Ellingsworth said the detector, a U.S. Army military model, probably was made before World War II and estimated its cost at about $175.

He said the county has purchased a more sophisticated metal detector since the 1970 incident.